


ANNFIELD PLAIN  
Urban District Council.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
Annual + Report  
FOR 1904.



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Stanley,

February 14th, 1905.

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present your Council with my report for the year 1904.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Although the chief industry of the district is coalmining—an industry that practically all others are depending upon to retain their very existence—yet there is no control over this industry vested in the Local Authority. The mines have special legislative acts that exclude your Authority and your Medical Officer. In all conditions where articles are manufactured, the act requires certain inspections for the purpose of enquiring into the sanitary surroundings, etc., of the workers. The following that are present in the district, may be included under the term—factory—viz :—gasworks, brickworks, sawmill, cornmill, electric lighting, and ærated water making ; and under workshops—tailors, shoemakers, cabinet makers, blacksmiths, dressmakers and bakers. The former gives a total of 7, and the latter about 20, all of which are on a comparatively small scale, and free from any real defects. There are no wholesale bakeries, and the retail dealers have fairly good and clean premises. In the brick-making, no chemicals are used. No special registration of any workshop is required, on account of the number of employees.

### INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The number of new dwelling houses completed during the year, consist of 25 self-contained and 12 tenemented ; the former contain 3 or more rooms and have separate yards and outoffices, and the latter have 3 rooms upstairs and 2 below, with the yard and out-offices common to both, giving a total of 49 tenants altogether. The houses are well-built and comfortable, and the surroundings are most satisfactory. Nevertheless the building of 2 roomed houses should not be encouraged.

**OLD PROPERTY.**—Two houses with shops were rebuilt on the same site. Ten houses having delapidations including structural defects were put into habitable condition. Two houses situated in Dipton were closed for the purpose of having them thoroughly re-constructed, and 9 houses in Kyo were closed on account of their dangerous condition, owing to colliery subsidences. The above were carried out with simple negotiation, and in no case was it necessary to take action under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. There are 20 single-roomed houses still in occupation, and they should, if possible, be enlarged. It is expected that several will, in a short time, be replaced by new dwellings; in the meantime there is this to be said in favour of their owners—they as a rule select for tenants, those having small families.

**OUT-OFFICES.**—Although the old open privy-middens have not quite disappeared yet, still they are gradually being re-constructed. Ten were dealt with during the year. For petty nuisances that continually arise, your Inspector gave no less than 99 notices, and practically all were removed to his satisfaction.

**SEWERS.**—In consequence of the increase of building in the Annfield Plain district, it was found necessary to make a supplementary sewer to intercept the sewage from the new portion. About 800 yards have been laid, and with this addition the drainage for that part of the district is now complete. Arrangements have been made to proceed with the sewerage of Dipton Wood Houses, and the conveyance of its sewage to the adjoining outfall works.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.**—There are two main outfall works, viz :—those at Dipton and those at Kyo. The former are acting satisfactorily, and are capable of treating any prospective additional sewage for many years to come. The same condition of things applies to the latter, only the effluent here is occasionally discoloured owing to the beds being recently made, which will clear up after the beds have become more matured. On the list of necessary improvements that should be taken in hand, is the treatment of the sewage from South Medomsley Cottages. It is not a large or an expensive undertaking.

The Scavenging and Removal of Refuse is carried out by contract, under the supervision of your Inspector, and the work is done well. The deposit for refuse is always selected with a view to avoiding a nuisance.

**OVERCROWDING.**—In the case of overcrowding it was necessary to call attention in 13 instances, all of which were abated after friendly negotiation. A regular inspection has been made of the three licensed lodging houses. They were found clean, and the regulations in the Act appear to have been complied with.

**NEW BURIAL GROUND.**—Ten acres of land have been acquired for the purpose of forming a burial ground for the Parish of Collierley. Half of the ground is already laid out, and ready for use; the other half will be reserved for future needs.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—Slaughter houses are attended to in a methodical manner and cause no unpleasantness.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—Milk Sellers are also cowkeepers and their cowsheds are registered. The cows are not stall-fed, and on the whole their surroundings are satisfactory. There are however some slight defects in structure that will need attention.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Excepting a few isolated dwellings that have a well on or near the premises, the whole district receives an abundant supply of water of good quality from the Weardale and Consett Water Co. The water is collected from Fells, and is filtered before distribution. The water is laid into every dwelling house.

### SICKNESS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The list of notifiable diseases reported during the year, made up a total of 130 cases, and these consisted of the following viz :—3 of Small-pox, 1 of Membranous Croup, 91 of Scarlatina, 23 of Diphtheria, 3 of Enteric Fever, and 9 of Erysipelas.

The total for the previous year was 210 cases.

**SMALL-POX.**—A case of Small-pox was imported into Dipton in the month of May, the result of a friendly visit. In the following July a case occurred in Annfield Plain under precisely similar circumstances, followed by another from direct contact with the second one. Removal to the Hospital with other preventative measures were carried out at once and both outbreaks ended.

**SCARLATINA.**—As already stated, Scarlatina is practically endemic in colliery villages. There are two things to be noticed with regard to this disease; the type is milder generally, and no serious epidemics have occurred.

**DIPHThERIA.**—Since its first appearance in 1902, Diphtheria has pursued a most erratic course. After clearance of a village, which clearance has lasted several weeks, it has re-appeared on or near the previous outbreak, giving an impression that infection retains its activity for a long time. The incubation period also was not well defined.

**CROUP.**—Judging from the surroundings, the case of this disease was probably one of Diphtheria.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**—Each case of Typhoid Fever was investigated in an endeavour to trace the origin, with absolutely negative results.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—No infection appeared to be associated with any case of Erysipelas.

**DIARRHŒA.**—Although the dry weather favoured Epidemic Diarrhœa generally, there never was any serious outbreak here.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Ample hospital accommodation has been provided for the treatment of the majority of infectious diseases, and in addition there is separate accommodation for the exclusive treatment of Small-pox. All patients suffering from Small-pox were promptly transferred to the Hospital, whereas half of those suffering from other infectious diseases received home treatment. The various diseases of the latter are still prevalent—the result of imperfect isolation. The complete isolation of the former gave the opportunity of having it stamped out.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**MEASLES.**—This disease twice invaded the district, viz:—in May and August; on the latter occasion it became smartly epidemic, especially in Catchgate and the villages immediately surrounding. With a view to lessening the

epidemic, it was considered advisable to close the Schools at Kyo, Catchgate and Hare Law for a short period. From the date of the closure, the outbreak abated, and the schools re-opened with a fair complement of pupils.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Several times Whooping Cough was imported, but it never became actively epidemic, nor was the fatality serious.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year were 524, and the number of deaths 249. This gives a birth-rate of 38·4, and a death-rate of 18·5 per 1000; estimating the population at the end of June at 13,500. Both rates are practically the same as the previous year. Mortality from infectious diseases including Diarrhœa amounts to 43. This gives a percentage of 17·3 on the total deaths. Infantile mortality although still high, was yet lower than the County average.

A glance at the following table will shew the various rates of your district in comparison with the county :—

		County of Durham	Annfield Plain.
Population ...	...	801,100	... 13,500
Annual rates per 1,000 population—			
Birth-rate ...	...	35·6	... 38·4
Death-rate ...	...	18·3	... 18·5
Zymotic death-rate	...	2·59	... 3·1
Infant Mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	...	162	... 158·4
Small-pox ...	...	0·03	... nil.
Scarlet Fever	...	0·16	... 0·37
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	...	0·29	... 0·37
Fever (Enteric & Continued)	...	0·15	... 0·07
Measles ...	...	0·55	... 0·81
Whooping Cough	...	0·43	... 0·88
Diarrhœa ...	...	0·95	... 0·52
Enteritis, &c.	...	0·38	... 0·74
Phthisis ...	...	1·07	... 1·40
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	0·92	... 0·81
Respiratory Diseases ...	...	2·92	... 3·33

It will be seen from the above table that the various percentages compare favourably with those of the county.

Attached are the usual Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**T. BENSON,**

M. O. H.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
ANNFIELD PLAIN.





Table I.

## ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.					Number	Rate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	11,500	420	37.4	76	174.4	189	16.4			7	196	17
1898	11,800	475	40	104	204.7	190	16			12	202	17
1899	12,100	442	35.5	75	169.6	192	16			10	202	16.6
1900	12,300	472	39	85	180	223	18			6	229	18.5
1901	12,500	523	41.8	86	162.5	229	18.3			—	229	18.3
1902	12,700	523	40	79	151	210	16.5			12	222	17.5
1903	13,100	510	38.9	89	174.5	232	17.7			13	245	18.7
Averages for years 1897-1903	12,285	480	38.9	85	173.8	209	16.9			9	218	17.6
1904	13,500	524	38.4	83	158.4	238	17.6			11	249	18.5

Area of District in acres)  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water).

3475

Total population at all ages 12481  
Number of inhabited houses 2271  
Average number of persons per house 5½

At Census  
of 1901.

**Table III.**  
**ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.**

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...	3				1	2		
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ..	23	1	6	13	1	2		5
Membranous croup ...	1		1					
Erysipelas ...	9			2		6	1	
Scarlet fever ...	91		38	46	3	4		53
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever ...	3				1	2		3
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague ...								
Totals ...	130	1	45	61	6	16	1	61

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—  
Lanchester Union.      County Asylum.      Langley Park Small-pox  
Hospital.      Tanfield Isolation Hospital.

**Table IV.**  
**ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.**

**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox ... ..								
Measles ... ..	11	5	5	1				
Scarlet fever ... ..	5	1	3		1			
Whooping-cough ... ..	12	3	9					
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ... ..	5		2	3				
Croup ... ..								
Fever { Typhus ... ..								
{ Enteric ... ..	1				1			
{ Other contin'd ... ..								
Epidemic influenza ... ..	1	1						
Cholera ... ..								
Plague... ..								
Diarrhœa ... ..	7	1	5			1		
Enteritis ... ..	10	5	3	2				
Puerperal fever ... ..	1				1			
Erysipelas ... ..	1		1					
Other septic diseases...								
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	19			3	5	10	1	
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	11	7	2	2				
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	10					5	5	
Bronchitis ... ..	37	13	4	3	1	11	5	
Pneumonia ... ..	6	2	1	1		1	1	
Pleurisy ... ..	1				1			
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ... ..	1	1						
Alcoholism } ... ..								
Cirrhosis of liver } ... ..								
Venereal diseases ... ..								
Premature birth ... ..	7	7						
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	3					3		
Heart diseases ... ..	16			1	1	7	7	
Accidents ... ..	11		3	2	2	3	1	
Suicides ... ..								
All other causes ... ..	73	37	7	3	2	11	13	
<b>All causes ... ..</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>33</b>	

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 23rd, 1905.

